NOTE XLIV.

ON A COLLECTION OF REPTILES FROM NIAS, AND ON CALAMARIA VIRGULATA, BOIE.

BY

Dr. Th. W. van LIDTH de JEUDE.

Some months ago a collection of Reptiles from Nias was presented to our Museum by Mr. J. D. Pasteur. The collection, though not a very large one, is of much importance to our Museum as up to this date no Reptiles from Nias were found in our collections. The Erpetology of the isle of Nias has already formed the subject of three papers, viz.: 1° a paper by the late Dr. J. G. Fischer [1]), 2° a list published by Mr. G. A. Boulenger [2]) and 3° Mr. E. Modigliani's paper on the Fauna erpetologica of the isle of Nias [3]). To the enumeration and the description of the Reptiles collected by Mr. Modigliani himself he adds a list of all the Reptiles of the isle of Nias mentioned by Fischer and Boulenger as well as by himself. This list contains 43 species and though our collection consists of only 15 species, three of them are new to the Fauna of Nias. It is therefore that I give a full list of the spe-

1) Dr. J. G. Fischer, Ueber eine Collection Reptilien und Amphibien von der Insel Nias, Abh. d. Naturw. Ver. in Hamburg. Bd. IX.

2) G. A. Boulenger, A list of Reptiles and Batrachians from the Island of Nias, Ann. a. Mag. of Nat. History, 1885.

3) E. Modigliani, Materiali per la Fauna erpetologica dell' isola Nias, Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova, ser. 2, Vol. 7.

cies in Mr. Pasteur's collection, in which the species not yet recorded from Nias are preceded by an asterisk.

1. *Gecko stentor* Cant.
2. *Gonyocephalus grandis* Gray.
3. *Calotes cristatellus* Kuhl.
4. *Mabuia multifasciata* Kuhl.

*5. *Calamaria lumbricoidea* Schl.

The single specimen in the Nias-collection (still a young one, attaining to a length of about 25 c. m.) differs from the other specimens in the Leyden Museum in having the dark coloration on the belly very much developed, the dark spots on the abdominal shields being rather large, flowing together and so forming an irregular dark longitudinal band on the middle of the belly.

Schlegel, in his »Physionomie des Serpents", makes mention of a young specimen of *Calamaria lumbricoidea* described by Boie under the name of *Calamaria virgulata*. This specimen, still present in the collections of the Leyden Museum, is not a young *Calamaria lumbricoidea* Schl., but belongs to a distinct species. It has a length of about 30 c. m. (is therefore larger than our young *C. lumbricoidea* from Nias) and differs from Schlegel's species not only in coloration, but in the pholidosis of the head also.

The first pair of lower labials are in contact with each other behind the mental-shield, which shield does not reach the anterior chin-shields. In this point the species agrees with *C. modesta*, *C. bicolor*, *C. nigro-albus* a. o., and differs from *C. lumbricoidea* and *C. gervaisi*. It is distinguished by the absence of an azygos shield between the chin-shields, by the presence of an anterior ocularshield, and by having an undivided analshield. As to the coloration of the specimen in spirits, the upper parts are of a brownish colour; there is, however, a whitish ring behind the head and another near the vent. The scales of the two outer series on each side of the body are provided with a round whitish spot in their centre. Moreover there are 5 dark longitudinal lines on the back, one on the middle of the

back and 2 on each flank. These lines are formed by small elongate dark spots on the scales, such a spot flowing together with that on the preceding and the following scale. These lines are situated on the 3rd, the 5th, the 7th, the 9th and the 11th longitudinal series of scales. The abdominal-shields are whitish, with several very small irregular dark spots anastomosing with each other, and so forming a dark cross-band at the anterior part of each abdominal-shield. This band is broadest in the middle of the shield. Underneath the tail the colour is whitish with a dark subcaudal line. The coloration of this species shows some resemblance with *C. gervaisi* D. & B. differing from it in presenting 5 in stead of 4 longitudinal dark lines.

Our specimen, captured in the isle of Java, has 190 abdominal- and 22 pairs of subcaudal-shields.

*6. *Cyclophis tricolor* Schl.

This interesting snake is represented in Mr. Pasteur's collection by a single specimen. Hitherto it is, as far as I know of, recorded from Java by Schlegel (and afterwards by Günther and Jan, though probably after specimens from the Leyden Museum), and from Sumatra by Stoliczka [1]). In the collections of the Leyden Museum there is one specimen from Sumatra, and another from Borneo.

7. *Simotes purpurascens* Schl.

The single specimen by which this snake is represented in Mr. Pasteur's collection agrees in all points with the description given by Fischer of *Simotes affinis* [2]). It has 8 upper- and 9 lower-labials on each side, and differs in this point from the specimen mentioned in Boulenger's list under the name of *S. labuanensis* Gthr. which is said to have 7 upper- and 8 lower-labials [3]).

1) F. Stoliczka, Malayan Reptilia and Amphibia. Journ. of the Asiatic Soc. of Bengal. 1873. p. 122. 2) Fischer, l. c. p. 4.

3) Günther, Reptiles of British India. p. 217.

Boulenger, l. c. p. 388.

Modigliani, l. c. p. 119.

O. Boettger, Herpetologische Notizen. Ber. Senck. Naturf. Ges. Franfurt a/M. 1887. p. 43.

A specimen from Sumatra in the collections of the Leyden Museum quite agrees with our Nias specimen as to length, coloration and pholidosis of the head, except in the number of lower labials, which in the Sumatra-specimen is 8 instead of 9. So do 2 adult specimens from Java, collected by Boie & Macklot, having 9 lower labials, and classed in our collection under the name of *Xenodon purpurascens* Schl. In the same bottle with these 2 specimens is a young one (22 c. m.) which agrees with them as to the pholidosis but widely differs in coloration, the latter quite agreeing with Schlegel's figure of *Xenodon purpurascens* [1]). There still exists in the collections of the Leyden Museum another young specimen, labelled *X. purpurascens* and captured in Sumatra, with 8 upper- and 9 lower-labials, which, as regards coloration, shows some resemblance with *S. affinis* Fischer or *S. trinotatus* D. & B. In my opinion all these specimens belong to *Simotes purpurascens* Schl., a species very much subject to variation in coloration as already mentioned by Schlegel himself.

8. *Simotes octolineatus* Schneid.

9. *Zapyrus fuscus* Gthr.

10. *Dendrophis picta* Gm.

11. » *caudolineata* Gray.

12. *Megaerophis flaviceps* Reinh.

Two small specimens (about 35 c. m.) in Mr. Pasteur's collection, and one somewhat larger specimen (about 50 c. m.) captured in 1862 in Sumatra, are the only specimens of this rare species ever sent to the Leyden Museum.

13. *Callophis intestinalis* Laur.

*14. *Platurus fischeri* Jan.

The occurrence of 2 adult specimens in our collection from Nias, classes this species in the fauna of that island.

15. *Ichthyophis glutinosis* L. ,

Leyden Museum, October 1890.

1) Schlegel, Abb. neuer oder unvolst. bek. Amphibien. Tafel 14.